

DDR-191-62

17 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : The CIA Automatic Language Processing Program

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1. This memorandum is in answer to a request by Mr. Amory that the DD/R make an evaluation and recommendations on the Agency's support of the [REDACTED] MT Translation Program. It is also an answer to a recent memorandum from the Assistant Director, Central Reference, on the subject of a proposed R&D program for automatic language processing. The following recommendations are based on a study by Colonel Edward B. Giller, of my staff. This study is enclosed.

2. I believe that the Agency should continue support of a long-range R&D program to provide automatic language processing capabilities for the Agency and the Intelligence Community. Therefore, strengthening the Interagency Committee on Machine Translation Research, as proposed in a recent CODIB policy statement on the subject, is a proper step. It is most desirable for the Federal Government to sponsor work at a central facility, Government or private, to test the product of this research. If the testing program is aimed primarily at satisfying the requirements of the Intelligence Community, then I would suggest that the Agency make its contribution to this field by sponsoring and guiding the contract for the central facility. It is quite proper for us to rely on the more basic research efforts of the DOD and the NSF. Our sponsoring of this contract would enable us to effectively implement our coordination role in the Intelligence Community and would stimulate the Community into more clearly stating its requirements.

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3. I believe that the [REDACTED] MT translation program has made a contribution to the present state of the art. However, there is serious doubt as to whether the present product is useful from an operational standpoint. I feel most strongly that the Agency should

conduct an objective evaluation of their latest translation efforts. Special emphasis should be placed on careful documentation of this evaluation. I urge most strongly a more active role by the ultimate consumer, such as OSI and ORR. FDD is not the proper organization to make the final evaluation.

4. Because of the strong personalities involved in this program, the consensus in the Agency is that we should drop the [REDACTED] 25X1A5a1 project permanently. I do not oppose this consensus but recommend a phase-out of some period of time, say nine months. During this last period we should obtain very complete records of their work which was sponsored by Agency funds.

SIGNED

HERBERT SCOVILLE, Jr.
Deputy Director
(Research)

Attachment
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DDR/EBGiller:mh

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